

Claims

What is claimed is:

- 1     **1.** A gravesite memorial display, comprising:
  - 2         a) a shell structured to enclose a weathertight interior,  
3         the shell including:
    - 4             i) at least one fixed portion;  
5             ii) at least one movable portion, which is coupled to the  
6             fixed portion and substantially forms the interior, the movable  
7             portion movable between a closed position, wherein the interior  
8             is sealed, and an open position, providing access to the  
9             interior enabling an individual to place items for display  
10            purposes within the interior or remove items from the interior;  
11            iii) a transparent portion fixed to at least one of the  
12            movable portion of the shell and the fixed portion of the  
13            shell;
    - 14         b) latching means for securely holding the movable portion  
15         of the shell in a closed position, when access to the interior  
16         is not needed, and when a weathertight sealing of the interior  
17         is to be established; and  
18         c) a seal fixed to at least one of the fixed portion or the  
19         movable portion, the seal structured for forming the  
20         weathertight seal where edge portions of the movable portion  
21         contact edge portions of the fixed portion;

22 d) means to maintain the gravesite memorial display at the  
23 gravesite at a selected location and orientation;

24 e) the gravesite memorial display therefore structured to  
25 seal in a weathertight manner, and internally thereto for  
26 display purposes at the gravesite, at least one item that may  
27 be viewed by nearby individuals including friends, family, or  
28 other visitors.

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1 2. The gravesite memorial display as recited in claim 1,  
2 wherein at least one flower holder is further included so that  
3 one or more flowers may be held thereby proximate to the shell  
4 of the memorial display for aesthetic purposes.

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1 3. The gravesite memorial display as recited in claim 2,  
2 wherein a plurality of flower holders are included and each is  
3 one of:

4 a) removably fixable to the shell such that each flower  
5 holder may be removed when not being utilized for holding  
6 flowers;

7 b) fixed to the shell and always available for holding  
8 flowers; and

9 c) fixed to the shell such that each flower holder may be  
10 rotated out of sight, as viewed from a frontward direction,  
11 when not needed for holding flowers.

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1 4. The gravesite memorial display as recited in claim 1,  
2 wherein the shell is flattened having a flattened front surface  
3 and a flattened back surface, with the transparent portion  
4 being substantially planar, and fixed to the movable portion of  
5 the shell portions for providing a substantial portion of the  
6 front surface.

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1 5. The gravesite memorial display as recited in claim 1,  
2 wherein the means to maintain the gravesite memorial display at  
3 the selected location and in a selected orientation, at the  
4 gravesite, includes at least one of:

5 a) at least one downwardly extending stake that is fixable  
6 to the shell of the memorial display for orienting the display  
7 in either one of a landscape orientation and a portrait  
8 orientation, when each included stake is driven into a ground  
9 surface; and

10 b) a base arranged for being placed upon a supporting  
11 surface and structured with a slot into which a lower portion  
12 of the gravesite memorial display may be placed.

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1 6. The gravesite memorial display as recited in claim 5, when  
2 configured with the base, further including a plurality of  
3 downwardly extending stakes that are fixable to the base.

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1 7. The gravesite memorial display as recited in claim 5,  
2 further including a locking means that is provided in one of:

3 a) the base, such that once the memorial display has been  
4 placed within the slot the locking means may be locked,  
5 preventing the memorial display from being removed from the  
6 slot of the base until the locking device is unlocked; and

7 b) the shell of the memorial display, such that once items  
8 have been placed within the interior for display purposes, the  
9 locking means may be locked, preventing the interior of the  
10 memorial display from being accessed until the locking means is  
11 unlocked.

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1 8. The gravesite memorial display as recited in claim 5,  
2 further including a handle that is fixed to the back surface of  
3 the shell of the memorial display, and arranged to aid an  
4 individual when driving at least one stake, fixed to the  
5 memorial display, into the ground surface proximate to the  
6 gravesite.

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1 9. The gravesite memorial display as recited in claim 1,  
2 wherein the seal is provided by a rubber gasket fixed to at  
3 least one of the fixed and the movable portions of the shell by  
4 being partially embedded within an included groove.

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1     **10.** A gravesite memorial display for holding and displaying  
2     items, at a gravesite location, within a weathertight interior,  
3     the memorial display comprising:

4         a) a shell formed of a first concaved portion opposingly  
5         coupleable to a second concaved portion for substantially  
6         forming a weathertight interior when coupled together, with the  
7         interior accessible for enabling items to be placed within the  
8         interior or removed from the interior, as required;

9         b) at least one transparent portion provided as at least a  
10        portion of one of the first concaved portion and the second  
11        concaved portion;

12        c) a seal located between edge portions of the first  
13        concaved portion of the shell and the second concaved portion  
14        of the shell for sealing the edge portions so that when the  
15        first and second concaved portions are coupled together, the  
16        interior is sealed in a weathertight manner;

17        d) means for securely coupling together the first concaved  
18        portion and the second concaved portion; and

19        e) means to establish and maintain the gravesite memorial  
20        display at the gravesite at a selected location and orientation  
21        so that one or more items placed within the interior may be  
22        displayed at the gravesite.

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1 11. The gravesite memorial display as recited in claim 10,  
2 further including a plurality of flower holders that are  
3 structured for holding, sustaining, and displaying a plurality  
4 of flowers.

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1 12. The gravesite memorial display as recited in claim 11,  
2 wherein the plurality of flower holders are removably fixed to  
3 the shell, for use when needed for holding flowers.

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1 13. The gravesite memorial display as recited in claim 10,  
2 wherein each of the first concaved portion and the second  
3 concaved portion of the shell are substantially flattened  
4 structures forming a flattened memorial display.

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1 14. The gravesite memorial display as recited in claim 10,  
2 wherein the seal is provided by a rubber gasket fixed to at  
3 least one of edge portions of the first concaved portion and  
4 edge portions of the second concaved portion.

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1 15. The gravesite memorial display as recited in claim 10,  
2 wherein the shell portions, including the first concaved  
3 portion, the second concaved portion, and the transparent  
4 portion, are constructed of at least one of:

5 a) opaque plastic;

- b) transparent plastic;
- c) glass;
- d) stained glass; and
- e) stainless steel.

16. The gravesite memorial display as recited in claim 10, wherein the coupling of the first concaved portion to the second concaved portion includes the use of at least one hinge means and at least one latching means, each of which is fixed to at least one of the first concaved portion, the second concaved portion, and the transparent portion.

**17.** A gravesite memorial display for holding and displaying items within a weathertight interior and flowers within at least one included flower holder, the gravesite memorial display comprising:

- a) a shell structured to enclose an interior, the shell structured with a flattened fixed portion and a movable portion, which is coupled to the fixed portion, with the movable portion movable between a closed position, wherein the interior is sealed, and an open position providing access to the interior enabling an individual to place items for display purposes within the interior or remove items from the interior;

12        b) a flattened transparent portion fixed to at least one of  
13 the movable portion of the shell and the fixed portion of the  
14 shell;

15        c) latching means for securely holding the movable portion  
16 of the shell in a closed position, when access to the interior  
17 is not needed, and when the weathertight sealing of the  
18 interior is to be established;

19        d) a seal fixed to at least one of edge portions of the  
20 fixed portion and the movable portion, and included for  
21 ensuring the weathertight sealing of the interior when the  
22 movable portion is in the closed position;

23        e) a plurality of flower holders coupled to the shell and  
24 configured for holding a plurality of flowers; and

25        f) means to maintain the gravesite memorial display at the  
26 gravesite at a selected location and orientation.

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1        18. The gravesite memorial display as recited in claim 17,  
2 wherein the means to maintain the gravesite memorial display at  
3 a selected location and orientation at the gravesite includes  
4 at least one of:

5        a) a plurality of stakes that are each fixable to the  
6 memorial display, and structured for being driven into a ground  
7 surface;



8        b) a base arranged for being placed upon a supporting  
9        surface and arranged with a slot into which a lower portion of  
10       the memorial display can be placed.